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Letter to Katherine Day regarding formation of SEAALL, January 28, 1953

Mary Oliver

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January 28, 1953

Miss Katherine B. Day
Acting Law Librarian
School of Law
Duke University
Durham, N.C.

Dear Katherine:

Dillard has just sent me his correspondence with the American Association of Law Libraries regarding the suggested change of the Carolinas Chapter to a Southeastern one with a possible dual affiliation. I want to bring you up-to-date and get your reaction before any action is taken in regard to the September meeting.

As I understand the plan of the Carolinas chapter, we are proposing to have our regular meeting in September at the time that the Deans are meeting here in Chapel Hill. At our regular meeting we would invite the Law Librarians of the other Southeastern law libraries and at that time discuss with them the possibility of forming a Southeastern chapter, including all types of Law Librarians to replace the present chapter. This larger group might possibly have a dual affiliation - with the American Association of Law Libraries and the Southeastern group of the Association of American Law Schools. It was in regard to the legality of the dual affiliation that Dillard wrote the American Association of Law Libraries.

Mr. Forrest Drummond sent the reaction of the Executive Board which he "summarized as favorable (to the expansion) with a feeling that wide latitude should be given to local chapters consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, and activities of A.A.L.L." In addition, the Board offered the suggestion that we consider whether the Southeastern region is too large geographically to support a chapter and whether regional meetings would detract from the number able to attend annual meetings of the A.A.L.L.?

He personally sees no objection to expansion but believes that there might be objection to having a chapter organize to serve only law schools if it contained non-law school members.

Miss Frances Farmer, in a letter to Dillard, says that she does not believe that this is the time to start a Southeastern group. She felt that it might be detrimental to the national group in that it could have the effect of taking away some of the support which should be thrown behind the A.A.L.L. She expressed similar sentiments in a letter to the Executive Board (a copy of which she sent to Dillard).

As it now stands, I believe that there would be no objection to a dual affiliation from the A.A.L.L. as long as such affiliation does not involve something inconsistent with their laws and policies. I do not feel that the questions raised as to the size of the group or whether it would take support from the national association can be finally determined by us but they must be discussed by the group at the proposed meeting.

However, in view of the above sentiments, I think that it might be well to reconsider the whole program. I would like to have your ideas and reactions before going ahead with any plans for an enlarged meeting in September.

I will appreciate it if you will discuss this matter with the members of the chapter from Duke and get their reactions.

I have a recent letter from Mrs. Shoemaker and she is expecting us on Friday February 13th. Dean Weathers has asked us to be his guests for lunch in the College Cafeteria on that day. In checking your last letter I see that the date you had in mind was the 20th of February. Will it be possible for you to plan on February 13th instead? You may now ignore all the above as I have just finished talking to you about it and I'll be seeing you on the 13th about Noon at the Law School.

Sincerely,

Mary W. Oliver
President, Carolinas Chapter
American Association of Law
Libraries